



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

January 20, 2006

Constance Sadler, Esq.  
Sidley Austin LLP  
1501 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34821 Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Meridian Speedway LLC, STB Finance Docket No. 34822 Kansas City Southern Railway Company, and Meridian Speedway, LLC—Exemption for Transactions within a Corporate Family, and STB Finance Docket No. 34823 Kansas City Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Meridian Speedway: SEA approval of retention of third party consultant HDR Inc. by Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Kansas City Southern, Kansas City Southern Railway Company and Meridian Speedway LLC

Dear Ms. Sadler:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is approving, under 49 CFR 1105.10(d), HDR Inc. (HDR) as the independent third-party consultant to assist SEA in preparing the appropriate environmental documentation in connection with the three Finance Dockets described below. This written approval follows my verbal approval given the morning of January 17, 2006. The above-captioned documents were filed later that day.


In Finance Docket No. 34821, Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a Notice of Exemption for authority to acquire trackage rights over certain lines of a newly created subsidiary of Kansas City Southern (KCS) known as Meridian Speedway LLC (MSLLC), between Meridian, Mississippi and Shreveport, Louisiana (the Line). KCS, The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCSR) and MSLLC simultaneously filed in Finance Docket Nos. 34822 and 34823, respectively, two other Notices of Exemption, the first relating to an intra-corporate family transaction pursuant to which KCSR will transfer the Line to MSLLC, KCS will continue in control of MSLLC (which will become a carrier upon acquiring the Line), and KCSR will contract with MSLLC to operate the Line on MSLLC's behalf, and the second relating to the acquisition by KCSR of trackage rights over the Line to be transferred to MSLLC.

We have attached a disclosure statement that you should forward to HDR to complete and return to us. As we previously discussed, SEA will direct, supervise, review and approve all environmental documents prepared by the third-party consultant in this proceeding.

On January 19, 2005 we provided Ms. Sadler, NS's attorney, a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This document outlines the responsibilities of KCS, KCSR, MSLLC, and NSR, the consultant, and SEA. The MOU will need to be signed by KCS, KCSR, MSLLC and NS, forwarded to HDR for signature, and returned to SEA. The purpose of the MOU is to establish an understanding between KCS, KCSR, MSLLC and NSR, the consultant and SEA regarding the conditions and procedures each party must follow in preparing all environmental documentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-565-1545 or Phillis Johnson-Ball of my staff at 202-565-1530.

Sincerely,

  
Victoria Rutson  
Chief  
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure (1)  
cc: William Mullins

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## **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

On behalf of HDR Inc., I certify that HDR Inc. has no financial or other interests in the outcome of the prospective petition in STB Finance Docket No. 34821 Norfolk Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Meridian Speedway LLC, STB Finance Docket No. 34822 Kansas City Southern Railway Company, and Meridian Speedway, LLC—Exemption for Transactions within A Corporate Family, and STB Finance Docket No. 34823, Kansas City Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption-Meridian Speedway

Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date: